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SOUTH CAROLINA HOG INVENTORY DOWN 8 PERCENT

Hogs and pigs on SOUTH CAROLINA farms as of December 1, 2009, are estimated at 225,000 head, the USDA, NASS South Carolina Field Office announced today. This is 8 percent below the 245,000 head on December 1, 2008. South Carolina ranks 21st among all states while Iowa ranks first at 19.3 million head with North Carolina and Minnesota coming in second and third at 9.7 and 7.4 million head, respectively.

Of the total hog inventory on December 1, 14,000 were breeding hogs, down 22 percent from 18,000 breeding hogs in 2008 and 211,000 were market hogs, 7 percent below the 227,000 on hand a year earlier. Sows farrowed December 2008 - November 2009 was 30,000, down 39 percent from the previous year. The average litter rate for the year was 8.53 pigs per litter, compared to 9.16 a year ago. Total pig crop was 256,000, down 43 percent from the previous year.

U. S. HOG INVENTORY DOWN 2 PERCENT

The UNITED STATES inventory of all hogs and pigs on December 1, 2009 was 65.8 million head. This was down 2 percent from December 1, 2008 and down 2 percent from September 1, 2009. Breeding inventory, at 5.85 million head, was down 3 percent from last year and down slightly from the previous quarter. Market hog inventory, at 60.0 million head, was down 2 percent from last year and down 2 percent from last quarter.

The September-November 2009 pig crop, at 28.8 million head, was up slightly from 2008 but down 2 percent from 2007. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.97 million head, down 2 percent from 2008 and down 6 percent from 2007. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 51 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs saved per litter was 9.70 for the September-November 2009 period, compared to 9.50 last year. The litter rate equaled the record for pigs saved per litter set during the June-August 2009 period. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.40 for operations with 1-99 hogs and pigs to 9.80 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 2.95 million sows farrow during the December 2009-February 2010 quarter, down 2 percent from the actual farrowings during the same period in 2009 and down 4 percent from 2008. Intended farrowings for March-May 2010, at 2.94 million sows, are down 3 percent from 2009 and down 4 percent from 2008.